AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A frame for a refuse retrieval device comprising:

an upper end of said frame and a lower end of said frame;

said lower end of said frame including refuse retrieval scoop means;

the frame including an outer frame member having at least one outer frame upper portion and at least one outer frame lower portion;

at least one outer prong disposed on one of said at least one outer frame upper portion and said at least one outer frame lower portion;

at least one prong receiving opening disposed on the other of said at least one outer frame upper portion and said at least one outer frame lower portion opposite said prong;

the frame further including an inner frame member having at least one inner frame upper section and at least one inner frame lower section;

at least one inner prong disposed on one of said at least one inner frame upper section and said at least one inner frame lower section; ~~and~~

at least one prong receiving opening disposed on the other of said at least one inner frame upper section and said at least one inner frame lower section opposite said prong[.] ;and

wherein at least one of the inner and outer frame is movable with respect to the other frame.

2. (Previously Presented) The refuse retrieval device of claim 1 wherein when said at least one outer prong is disposed on said lower portion of said outer frame, at least one inner prong is disposed on said upper section of said inner frame.

3. (Previously Presented) The refuse retrieval device of claim 1, wherein said at least one outer prong is integrally formed with said outer frame.

4. (Previously Presented) The refuse retrieval device of claim 1, wherein said at least one inner prong is integrally formed with said inner frame.

5. (Currently Amended) A refuse retrieval device comprising:

an outer frame member and an inner frame member wherein at least one of the inner and outer frame is movable with respect to the other frame;

said outer and inner frame members adapted to cooperate with one another and being connected to form a frame having an upper end and a lower end;

refuse retrieval scoop means connected to said refuse retrieval device at the lower end of said frame;

said outer frame member comprising:

at least one outer frame upper portion and at least one outer frame lower portion;

at least one prong disposed on one of said at least one outer frame upper portion and said at least one outer frame lower portion;

at least one prong receiving opening disposed on ~~one~~ the other of said at least one outer frame upper portion and said at least one outer frame lower portion opposite said prong;

whereby the upper and lower portions of the frame can be locked together by engagement of said prong and prong receiving opening;

said inner frame member comprising:

at least one inner frame upper section and at least one inner frame lower section;

at least one prong disposed on one of said at least one inner frame upper section and said at least one inner frame lower section;

at least one prong receiving opening disposed on ~~one~~ the other of said at least one inner frame upper section and said at least one inner frame lower section opposite said prong; and

whereby the upper and lower sections of the frame can be locked together by engagement of said prong and prong receiving opening.

6. (Currently Amended) A refuse retrieval device comprising:

an outer frame member comprising:

at least one upper portion and at least one lower portion;

at least one prong disposed on one of said at least one upper portion and said at least one lower portion;

at least one prong receiving opening disposed on one of said at least one upper portion and said at least one lower portion opposite said prong;

whereby the upper and lower portions of the frame can be locked together by engagement of said prong and prong receiving opening;

an inner frame member comprising:

at least one upper section and at least one lower section;

at least one prong disposed on one of said at least one upper section and said at least one lower section;

at least one prong receiving opening disposed on one of said at least one upper section and said at least one lower section opposite said prong;

whereby the upper and lower sections of the frame can be locked together by engagement of said prong and prong receiving opening;

said outer frame member further including a handle at one end and mounting means at another end;

said inner frame member carried by the outer frame member having a handle at one end and two pair of linkage arms at another end, said linkage arms integrally formed with said inner frame member.

a ~~pair of~~ scoop means having a first end and a second end, said first end and said second end being pivotally mounted on said mounting means, each end of the scoop means also pivotally connected to one pair of the linkage arms;

a spring biasing mechanism connected to said inner frame member and said outer frame member for biasing the ~~pair of scoops~~ scoop means in a closed position, said spring biasing member comprising:

a first brace connected to between a first and second side of said inner frame member;

a second brace connected to between a first and second side of said outer frame member; and

a pair of springs connected between the first brace and the second brace with one of the springs being substantially parallel to the other;

alignment means connected to said outer frame member for aligning the inner frame member with said outer frame member; and

~~each of~~ said scoop means having a pair of scoops and an extended portion at each end, each extended portion having a hole therethrough for mounting on the mounting means, the extended portions of each scoop overlappingly positioned with the extended portions of the other scoop so that the hole in each extended portion at each end of one scoop is in alignment with a corresponding hole in the extended portion at each end of the other scoop.

7. (Previously Presented) The frame for a refuse retrieval device of claim 1, wherein said at least one outer prong includes two prongs disposed on opposite sides of the lower portion of the outer frame.